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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,184	02/28/2007	Herbert Schrefl	VO10454.US	3483
41863	7590	10/14/2009		
TAYLOR & AUST, P.C. P.O. Box 560 142. S Main Street Avilla, IN 46710			EXAMINER HALPERN, MARK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1791	
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			10/14/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/575,184	Applicant(s) SCHREFL ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark Halpern	Art Unit 1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-42 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-29, 32-37, 40-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 31, 38 and 39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- 1) Claims 20-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 recites "a first portion", however it is not clear what defines a first portion.

Claim 32 recites "a first portion", however it is not clear what defines a first portion.

Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 2) Claims 20-29, 32-37, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abbott (2,274,641).

Claims 20-23, 26-28, 42: Abbott discloses a suction roll (Title) having a rotatable perforated shell 9, with perforations 11, transmitting vacuum through the shell to paper web 12 over vacuum region 21 of suction box 14, as the web carried on felt or wire 13 is moving in the direction of the arrow, as shown in Figure 1. The suction box is located within the cylindrical shell. On either side of the vacuum region 21 are packings 18 and 19 extending longitudinally to the roll. The packings 18 and 19 read on the claimed sealing elements. An air-impermeable cover is shown in Figures 1 or 3, also as item 19 or in Figure 5 as item 37 with lip 38 extending circumferentially outside the pressure box and within the shell (Pages 1-4 and Figures 1-7). The cover touches the shell, as shown in Figures 1 or 3, or is near the shell by a distance of adjustable vent 27, as shown in Figure 5, therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the distance between the cover and the shell be of any distance including the claimed distance depending on the thickness of the shell.

Claims 24-25: cover distance to the pressure box could be adjusted as shown in Figure 5.

Claim 29: Abbott is silent on the cover circumferential distance, however, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the cover shown in Figure 5 extends circumferentially the claimed distance.

Claim 32: the cover extends axially over a first portion of perforated region.

Claims 33-37, 40-41: cover is shown in Figure 5; the cover can be varied axially by adjusting the distance mechanically; the distance can be controlled and adjusted. The cover is made of a single material.

Allowable Subject Matter

4) Claims 30-31, 38-39, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose: the roll recited in claim 20 also having cover extending over the entire perforated region of the roll (claims 30-31): the roll recited in claim 20 also having spacers (claims 38-39).

Conclusion

5) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone no. is 571-272-1190.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

/Mark Halpern/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791